

MAY 23 2013 1 KAMALA D. HARRIS Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Attorney General of California 2 JANICE K. LACHMAN Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 GEOFFREY S. ALLEN Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 193338 1300 I Street, Suite 125 5 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 6 Telephone: (916) 324-5341 Facsimile: (916) 327-8643 7 Attorneys for Complainant 8 BEFORE THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS 9 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. PT-2011-1632 12 CARLO ALOOT DEVERA 265 N. Belmont Street 13 Porterville, California 93257 ACCUSATION 14 Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 34409 15 Respondent. 16 17 Complainant alleges: 18 **PARTIES** 19 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely 20 in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Vocational Nursing and 21 Psychiatric Technicians ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs. 22 2. On or about September 22, 2008, the Board issued Psychiatric Technician License 23 Number PT 34409 to Carlo Aloot Devera ("Respondent"). Respondent's psychiatric technician 24 license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will 25 expire on September 30, 2013, unless renewed. 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///

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STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 3. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 4520 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensed psychiatric technician for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 4520) of the Psychiatric Technicians Law (Code § 4500, et. seq.)
- 4. Code section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under Code section 4545, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration.
 - 5. Code section 4521 states, in pertinent part:

The board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the Psychiatric Technicians Law (Bus. & Prof Code section 4500, et seq.)] for any of the following reasons:

(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes but is not limited to any of the following:

- (5) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that the use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.
- (6) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the falsification of records concerning prescription, possession, or consumption of any of the substances described in paragraphs (4) and (5), in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of the conviction. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline.
- (f) Conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a psychiatric technician, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline . . .
- 6. Code section 4523 states:

A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a psychiatric technician is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of

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this article. The board may order the license suspended or revoked or may decline to issue a license, when the time for appeal has lapsed, or the judgment or conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw his plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment.

COST RECOVERY

7. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Criminal Conviction)

8. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 4521, subdivision (f), in that on or about January 17, 2012, in Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. PCM259459, Respondent pled nolo contendere to violating Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b) (driving while having a 0.08 percent or higher blood alcohol), a misdemeanor, a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a psychiatric technician. The circumstances of the crime are as follows: On or about October 1, 2011, an officer with the California Highway Patrol ("CHP") initiated an enforcement stop on Respondent's vehicle. When the officer made contact with Respondent, he immediately smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from within the vehicle. The officer also noticed that Respondent's eyes were red and watery. Respondent admitted to the officer that he drank 2 cans of Bud Light Beer about 2 hours previously. As the officer was speaking with Respondent, he smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath. The officer administered various field sobriety tests, which Respondent could not perform as demonstrated. The officer placed Respondent under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol and transported him to the Porterville Area CHP Office. where he underwent breath tests. Respondent's breath test results showed that he had a blood alcohol level of 0.11 and 0.10 percent. Later, the officer noted in his investigation report that Respondent had a passenger in his vehicle at the time of the above incident.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Use of Alcoholic Beverages to an Extent or in a Manner

Dangerous or Injurious to Oneself and Others)

9. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 4521, subdivision (a)(5), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about October 1, 2011, Respondent consumed alcoholic beverages to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself and the public, as set forth in paragraph 8 above.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime Involving the Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages)

10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 4521, subdivision (a)(6), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about January 17, 2012, Respondent was convicted of a criminal offense involving the consumption of alcoholic beverages, as set forth in paragraph 8 above.

MATTERS IN AGGRAVATION

11. To determine the degree of discipline to be assessed against Respondent, if any, Complainant alleges as follows: On or about June 2, 2009, a representative of the Board sent Respondent a letter, notifying him that the Board would not pursue disciplinary action against his psychiatric technician license relating to his 2009 conviction for "wet reckless driving (alcohol related)" since he had complied with the terms of his sentencing and had no other convictions of the same nature. The Board's representative warned Respondent that future substantiated reports that he had engaged in similar behavior or otherwise violated the laws or regulations governing his practice as a psychiatric technician may result in disciplinary action against his license.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Psychiatric Technician License Number PT 34409, issued to Carlo Aloot Devera: